

Hillary Collins-Gilpatrick
Brunswick
LD 2106

To the Judiciary Committee,
My name is Hillary Collins-Gilpatrick. I am a fourth generation Mainer, currently residing in Brunswick and serving as the Minister of First Universalist Church in Yarmouth. I am testifying in support of LD 2106.

One need only read the list of sites this bill aims to protect to understand the necessity of its passing. Public schools, libraries, health care and childcare facilities are places people go for care, for resources, for education and for physical, emotional, social, and intellectual development. If these sites become targets for ICE agents, they become sites of physical, emotional, social, and intellectual trauma, affecting the people who live, work, and sustain the potential of our state on a macro level. Such psychological damage will last generations and affect how people productively and happily live their lives here.

ICE operations repeatedly use the rhetoric and reasoning of "criminality" as cause for their aggressive tactics against human beings. I ask you, wise Committee members, is the toddler at the childcare facility a criminal? Is the staff member making this toddler a snack, picking up their toys, and reading them a board book as they fall asleep for naptime, a criminal? What about the nurse caring for your loved one at the already understaffed and overworked hospital, or the person sanitizing the room so the next patient can safely rest there heal. Are these human beings criminals? As your loved ones - or you - receive care in a medical facility, might it impact the healing process, the focus of doctors and nurses, the already tender state of family members sitting bedside in loving prayer if ICE agents dressed in military gear, armed with their faces shrouded are freely patrolling the halls or interrupting protocols?

No matter where you stand on the role or necessity of ICE presence in Maine, it should be clear that there need be places where people - be they multigenerational or new Mainers - can trust they are safe; place where we all can work, heal, learn, play, and sustain the productivity and potential of our state in peace.

Again, I urge you to support LD 2106.

Thank you for your attention, care, and dedication to our great state.
With faith, Rev. Hillary
Collins-GilpatrickFirst Universalist Church, Yarmouth ME